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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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SUBJECT Medical Research and Development

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the quality of Chinese medical research and development

The quality of Chinese medical research through 1946 was very poor. Due to World War II and the subsequent civil war, all activities including research were relegated as minor considerations and a policy of "war efforts first" was stressed; furthermore medical research was never encouraged by the Chinese Nationalist Government.

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The existing medical colleges were interested primarily during this time in training practitioners.

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If any scientific research work was given more than a minor consideration, it was in the field of agriculture.

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Due to the lack of equipment, adequate financial support, and sufficient personnel, there was not much medical research to speak of in China. However the quality of the little that was done, was usually excellent.

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2. the primary trends in medical research and development from 1940 through 1948

Prior to 1948 the only sizable medical research institutions were the Peking Medical School and the newly founded Medical Research Department in the National Academy of Science at Shanghai. The head of the latter institution was Dr. Ling Ko-sheng, a physiologist. This Medical Research Department held a position in the National Academy similar to that of the Department of Zoology, the Department of Botany, and a few others. The purpose of this Medical Research Department was to perform research on anti-biotics such as the substances from the blue mold of citrus fruits, and surgical research such as wound healing. Since 1948, according to publications, professional rumors and hearsay,

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the Chinese Communist Government has paid much more attention to that medical research relating to national defense such as military medical branches. During 1952 the "Red" Government reorganized all of the colleges and universities in order to concentrate their "man-power", and as a result some colleges were eliminated from the parent university which in turn was then allowed to expand along only certain special lines. For example, the National University of Chekiang had a rather good foundation of natural sciences, but in the reorganization the Biology Department was transferred to Shanghai University (Fu-Tan University). Dr. C C Tai, formerly professor in the Biology Department of Chekiang University and later the dean of the College of Natural Science, is now at Fu-Tan University, and stated in 1952 that his department has a group of over 20 personnel. Of course, Dr. Tai had to give up his genetics research when the Communists took over. Since the entire field of genetics has been condemned by them as reactionary and all former friends and colleagues in the field of genetics have been liquidated

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The Medical College of Chekiang University was transferred to the Chekiang Provincial Medical College. Similar transfers and reorganizations are known to have occurred all over the country. A new Department of Experimental Biology was established at the National Academy of Science (Ko-Sho-Yuan) after the Communist Regime took over; this new department is considered one of the strongest of the National Academy and contains some of the top biologists of China, such as Professor Sitgan Fa and Professor T L Lo. Whether or not this department also performs research in the medical field is not known.

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The primary trends in medical research in China through 1948 were always directed along the line of preventive measures against infectious diseases, vaccine production, and other public health problems. Some research studies were also performed on Chinese herb medicines of known therapeutic values, i.e., the extraction and analysis of the active agents, and their pharmacologicals.

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3. policies governing medical research and development

There was no individual, special organization, or agency controlling medical research and development from a policy standpoint during the Nationalist Government administration. Research workers had a difficult time struggling for a livelihood and, in addition, were compelled to attempt research work with out-dated facilities. Apparently, from the information which I gave in paragraph two of question two above, the Communist Regime is responsible for all policies, etc., etc.

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During the Nationalist administration the head of the Research Department of a college or university or the director of the research institute was responsible for the policies of that installation regarding research; in official and government facilities and installations, the director still was responsible for research policy but was required, of course, to meet the rules, regulations, and those policies outlined by the Ministry of Health.

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4.

Canton, Changsha, Chengtu, Mukden, Changchun, Dairen and Harbin are practical areas which might be best suitable for medical research experiments. At the present time Shanghai, Peiping and those places in Manchuria (Mukden, Changchun, Dairen, and Harbin) are probably the most important of those places mentioned.

5.

Unless present personnel include new Soviet-trained researchers, the top-flight research medical research scientists are those who receive their graduate or higher training in western countries.

Those personnel for the most part are quite competent since the majority are educated and trained in the US or Europe.

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6.

Due to the increasing needs of medical service personnel, the Chinese Communist Government had cut the training of medical students from six years to three years. a conceivable result is a decrease in quality and capabilities of available physicians and further that these personnel cannot possibly know very much about research. the fore doubt that the Communists are making special efforts to train medical research workers.

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